

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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72

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 NIC-01 IO-14 DPW-01 SCA-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /132 W

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R 061153Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9348

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 4506

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, LA

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR

1. I CALLED ON SOVIET AMBASSADOR VDOVINE THIS MORNING
TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION PRIOR TO MY DEPARTURE.

2. I TOLD VDOVINE I WAS PUZZLED BY THE APPARENT CONTRA-
DICTIONS IN PATHET LAO POLICY AND THE RECENT STRIDENCY
OF THEIR STATEMENTS AND BROADCASTS.ON ONE HAND TRUE
NEUTRALITY APPEARED TO BE IN THE LAO NATIONAL INTEREST;
THE PATHET LAO MINISTERS, WHILE CLEARLY SUSPICIOUS
OF US, REPEATEDLY AFFIRMED THEIR DESIRE FOR FRIENDLY
RELATIONS WITH US; OUR PROGRAMS WERE CONTINUING ON A BUSINESS
AS USUAL BASIS. ON THE OTHER HAND, THE NVA HAD NOT LEFT,
EMMET KAY HAD NOT BEEN RELEASED AND WE AND THE THAI WERE
BEING TREATED TO A HEAVY BARRAGE OF HOSTILE PROPAGANDA.
HAD THERE BEEN A CHANGE IN PL ATTITUDES?

3. VDOVINE SAID THAT HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE TONE OF THE
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JUNE 4 STATEMENT. IN HIS VIEW STEADY PROGRESS TOWARD

RECONCILIATION WAS BEING ACHIEVED. HANOI AND SAM NEUA HAD SUDDENLY BECOME VERY SHRILL, BUT THIS PROPAGANDA SHOULD BE DISREGARDED AS THE FUNDAMENTALS OF THE SITUATION IN LAOS WERE UNCHANGED. HE HOPED U.S. POLICY WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY THIS KIND OF THING. ONE HAD TO SEPARATE POLITICAL REALITY FROM PROPAGANDA. OBVIOUSLY THE PL WERE VERY SUSPICIOUS OF THE AMERICANS AND THE THAIS BUT THE PRESENT BLASTS WERE PROBABLY INTENDED TO COVER UP THE FACT THE NVA HAD NOT WITHDRAWN. HE THEN WENT OVER THE FAMILIAR PROPAGANDA POINTS MADE BY HANOI AND SAM NEUA IN A TONE WHICH INDICATED HE THOUGHT THEY WERE ABSURD. HE OPINED THAT COORDINATION WAS A DIFFICULT PROBLEM FOR THE PL AND THAT CONTRADICTIONS WERE INEVITABLE. THEIR LEADERSHIP WAS DIVIDED BETWEEN VIENTIANE, LUANG PRABANG, SAM NEUA AND HANOI.

4. I SAID THAT WE WERE KEEPING COOL BUT THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT EVERYONE ACT RESPONSIBLY. FOR EXAMPLE, IMPROVED LAO/THAI RELATIONS WERE IN THE LAO NATIONAL INTEREST BUT IMPROVEMENT WAS MADE DIFFICULT IF THE THAIS WERE CONSTANTLY ACCUSED OF PLOTS AND OF BEING AMERICAN LACKEYS. SIMILARLY, I THOUGHT THAT IT WAS TIME FOR SOME CONCILIATORY MOVES BY THE PL HERE. VDOVINE AGREED.

5. WE THEN TALKED ABOUT POW EMMET KAY. VDOVINE SAID HE HAD BEEN ASSURED BY PHOUN SIPRASEUTH THAT KAY WOULD BE RELEASED QTE SOON UNQTE (VIENTIANE 3391 - NOTAL). HE WOULD CHECK INTO THIS PROBLEM AGAIN AND SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON.

6. I ASKED ABOUT SOVIET AID TO LAOS AND VDOVINE REPLIED THAT HE HAD NOT YET BEEN ASKED TO UNDERTAKE ANY SPECIFIC PROJECT. THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PL HAD DISCUSSED AID WITH HIM IN A GENERAL WAY AND HE HAD ASSURED THEM THAT THE USSR WISHED TO BE HELPFUL. THIS WHOLE PROBLEM WAS UNDER STUDY IN MOSCOW.

7. COMMENT: AS USUAL VDOVINE WAS CANDID, FRIENDLY AND REASONABLE. HIS ATTITUDE SEEMS TO BE THAT THE PL ARE CONFIDENTIAL

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STILL A BIT WILD BUT WILL SIMMER DOWN.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COALITION GOVERNMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION, NEUTRALISM, TROOP REDUCTIONS, POW RETURN, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: smithrj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974VIENTI04506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740146-0412
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740667/aaaacfsz.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <24 FEB 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH SOVIET AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, LA, PATHET LAO, NVA, (KAY, EMMET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005